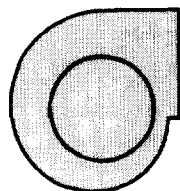
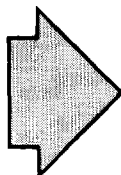


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Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Managing Director
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Sub: Increased fees for VHF Marine licenses

Our family have been power boaters for some twelve years. We have **always** gone to sea with at least one VHF base radio on board and now travel with an additional two hand held units and a spare larger antenna in case of emergency.

In those twelve years we have performed perhaps twenty "rescues". These assists under way usually involve a smaller boat below 21 feet and are primarily "out of fuel" situations, with an occasional mechanical breakdown included.

In **MOST** of those "rescues" the boater in difficulty had:

- a. no anchor or anchor line
- b. no flares
- c. no smoke signals
- d. no auxiliary lighting or emergency flashlights
- e. no Coast Guard approved life saving vests or flotation devices
- f. NO RADIO OF ANY KIND

When asked about the absence of these items, especially the radio, the response often centered about the cost of that radio and the paperwork in obtaining the necessary license.

Of course we realize that the cost is just over \$100. these days for a simple hand held that can save a life, and the FCC form is only one page and costs \$35., but the point here is that we need to encourage MORE FCC VHF radios be carried by ALL boaters WHENEVER they are underway, and raising the fee for FCC VHF license will simply cause more boaters to venture forth WITHOUT the protection and safety of a VHF radio.

Certainly your organization does not wish to encourage that foolishness.

Sincerely,

Robert Jerome

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VICE COMMODORE
ROBERT M. ALLEN

301 E. STRAWBERRY DRIVE
 MILL VALLEY, CA 94941
 (Tel) (415) 383-2672
 (FAX) (415) 383-0641

November 9, 1993

Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
 1919 M Street NW
 Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Secretary,

It is my understanding the FCC intends to double the Marine Radio station license fee. I believe this increase is a mistake.

Marine VHF radios are a major, if not critical, safety device for recreational boaters not legally required to carry them. A doubling of the fees will either cause some small boaters to not carry this major safety device, or will cause them to operate without licenses. Either scenario is not in the best interest of the FCC, or boating safety.

When you state "fees", read "tax." Is the FCC serving the public, or acting as an agent of the treasury department to collect taxes? When the licenses went from "free" to charges the number of unlicensed stations increased. What do you think will happen when the fees are doubled?

I request you do not increase the fees in the interest of boating safety and airways control.

Sincerely yours,

R M Allen

Robert M. Allen

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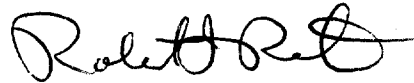
Secretary of the FCC
C/O Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington DC 20554

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Dear Secretary:

"No" to the proposed increase to holders of VHF Marine Radio Licenses.

Yours truly,



Robert J. Rotz

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